

Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

At the February meeting of the Taiku Station I was instructed to send the bi-monthly letter to the Board. I have some hesitancy in so doing, as I am new in the work and am far from being so well acquainted with its details and the relative value of the different kinds of work here that I feel capable of giving a suitable resumé of the work of the past two months. However, I shall endeavor to tell of things as they appear to me.

Mr. Adams' return from Sungju after ten days evangelistic work was very full of good news, though he had not found the interest quite as large as representations from Koreans visiting in this city had led him to expect. He found several men interested in our doctrine - four or five of them intelligently so. Of these he admitted one as a catechumen. The one most clear in his faith in Christ and the "best educated" man of the professing Christians applied for admission as a catechumen also. But as he had been an official in the Roman Catholic class in that neighborhood and had not severed his relations in an orderly way from that body, it was deemed expedient to defer his admission until he had resigned his office and severed his connection with the Romanists. This section of Korea is a stronghold of Romanists and we are very anxious to avoid doing anything which will be apt to provoke their wrath. We cannot work with them & we do not feel it wise to work against them. The endeavor of the missionaries here, it was decided at a meeting of session shall be to preach the Savior and the pure Bible doctrine and if we are brought into any relations with the Romanists, to take great pains to see that everything is done "decently and in order". The ten days stay of Mr. Adams with the Christians there was a season of instruction in the beliefs of the church and of preaching to the people. It was found necessary to lay much stress on the observance of the Sabbath for they had not been informed that Sabbath keeping was necessary and knew nothing of how to keep it. Mr. Adams thinks the Sungju community very hopeful for future labors.

In Taiku the work has been developing normally, two or three catechumens have been admitted. We are sorry to report that one of these catechumens had to be suspended for an indefinite period because after his fourth wife had run away, he shortly secured a fifth without making any effort to find his fourth, and when the runaway returned announcing she would stay but a few days, he had lived with both women for ten days. He professed repentance publicly and is faithful in attending services.

Another catechumen who had shown some signs of weakness on the Sabbath question before applying to join himself to us is a catechumen but altho [he] professed repentance for selling goods on Sunday, has been unable to withstand the pressure brought on him by the men whose stock of goods he is selling, and was at his stand on the last Sunday in January. A Christian desperately poor, owing many creditors finds Sabbath observance very hard. The session will examine into this case and probably will have to drop him.

The first death has come to the Christian community here. Mr. Yi (pronounced ēē) came to us last summer wishing to get carpenter and wood buying work. He obtained none as it was known his business relations with the Romanists had been unsatisfactory, and he had left them because they would not employ him again. But though he obtained no work here, he became a regular attendant at all the meetings and brought in many of his friends, among whom is my language teacher, a promising catechumen. Mr. Yi applied to be admitted to the catechumenate and was admitted, an earnest believing and loved man. Consumption [tuberculosis], however, has ended his life two days ago. Before his death many times he gladly told of his faith in Christ, and it was deemed advisable to baptize him, as he so requested. We asked that he be given a Christian burial, instructing his family to let the missionaries bury him. He passed away

peacefully, the first Protestant of this province to meet his Lord. His death has had a healthy influence on the other Christians, and it is hoped by us that the funeral today will be made a blessing to them.

The dispensary has been opened. Dr. Johnson had done much work among the Koreans before, but about 1½ months ago, he opened the dispensary. Immediately the people began to flock thither to be cured. The doctor is a very busy man. He tries to give his forenoons to the language, but the patients are becoming more numerous and he has to go before dinner [noon meal] and never finishes before supper time. About 20 patients are disposed of each day and, as the doctor has an untrained helper, and he himself has not finished language work and has not well learned the peculiar ways in which the Koreans, ignorant of anatomy and physiological and medical terms, describe their symptoms, this represents a great deal of energy. A few operations also have been successfully performed, in which Mr. Bruen and I have been of assistance.

The medical work promises well. We are in a large city at the center of the most populous province of the empire with no other foreign doctor in the province. People come in from many miles around - some from 70 or 80 miles because they hear there is a foreign doctor who cures people - and Dr. Johnson says that nearly every one reports to him that they have heard that this hospital is in charge of the people who teach the Jesus doctrine, so that efforts at preaching are thus made easier. The ground is broken for the planting of the gospel seed.

The New Year's season, beginning January 31, has given Mrs. Johnson many opportunities of speaking to the women of the city. They rarely get outside of their own homes except during these holidays which last two weeks. Mrs. Johnson had a room fitted up for the reception of visitors and she has averaged talking to eight or ten each day. She loves to talk to the women, but much regrets her language ability is no greater, as many household cares have hindered her from progressing far beyond the first year's course of study.

Mr. Bruen and I have been buckling into the language, and Mrs. Sidebotham has been studying it as much as her health and other duties will allow. We have found a beginning to actual work in endeavors to teach the boys who will come each Sunday afternoon (we average seven) - how to sing, [to recite] scripture verses, and getting someone to tell them a Bible story. As our ability to converse in Korean increases we hope to form this into a Sunday School.

As I write Mr. Adams is conducting a class for the instruction of the Christians who do not reside in the city. It is the first time such a class has been undertaken here, and probably the distant Christians have not realized its importance. There are three present now, and more may come in, as he expects to continue the class another week. But in a locality where a year ago there was hardly one who dared confess Christ, the gathering of a dozen Christians from the city, and three who represent six or eight more from the country, fills our hearts with gratitude to God that He has thus blessed the efforts of His servants.

The business affairs of the station are very slow in moving. Efforts to get materials for houses on the ground belonging to the Board are accomplishing little. Timber is very scarce here. Suitable timber it seems impossible to get. It may have to be shipped in from Japan at great expense. It is very discouraging to try to build a house here larger than a hut. It is the intention to fence in the property as soon as possible, but Korea is so primitive that to get posts for the fence seems almost impossible.

Mr. Adams has been giving about three hours a week to the task of instructing and helping us new missionaries in the language. We appreciate his help very much.

The health of the missionaries has on the whole been very good. Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Sidebotham and Mr. Bruen have been incapacitated for two or three days. Living in Korean houses is far from the ideal mode. They are not built to insure the health of the missionaries. But we have to put up with them for a time, and for us newer ones it seems probable for a long time. We need somewhere where we can escape the terrible smoke which spreads over this city as the Koreans light their fires each morning and evening - the wind is too light ordinarily to blow it away. But I know Dr. Johnson has presented strong arguments to the Board concerning the desirability of house building. As for me, I am not much pleased with the prospect, as it is now sixteen months since the Mission recommended his house money, and ten months since the Board voted it; but there is no house yet, and the means seem absent.

I hope my words will give you some idea of the work of the past two months in this station. We are happy in our work, and united - a fact which I deem it worth while to mention, as I remember the many times we were counseled last June to "seek to live at peace with the brethren". The Spirit of Jesus seems to pervade our intercourse together, and we have many delightful prayer meetings - each Thursday evening - and helpful song services - each Sunday evening.

On behalf of the Taiku Station,

Very sincerely yours,

R.H. Sidebotham

February 19, 1900

Roll # 179, Vol. 9, #19

Taikien, Korea, Feb 19 1900

My dear Mr. Ellinwood

RECEIVED  
FEB 25 1900  
DR. ELLINWOOD

Your letter of Dec 9<sup>th</sup> came to hand  
In regard to the additional appropriation of  
\$400.00 which was asked for my house I had  
written about it early in the Fall.

The price of building material and labor  
seems to have been going up steadily ever  
since the war and the amount of money  
that would build a suitable house there  
is not sufficient now. Added to this is  
the fact that the Taikien station is more un-  
fortunate than the others in Korea in regard  
to supplies of timber, brick, etc. Being a  
hundred miles from a port, in a province  
where timber is very scarce and there is no  
local timber which makes the question  
difficult. Timber will have to be cut in  
the mountains and floated down the streams  
for many miles. Last summer at the  
had two men out for several weeks looking  
for it, no suitable timber could be found.  
I am now on the track of some which  
I trust can be secured at a price within  
reach but I think that the additional  
\$400. will be absolutely necessary to build  
a suitable house.

You will notice that I have asked for  
\$175.00 silver for a western on my new  
property. The site as you may remember  
is on a hill where as is shown by  
my sketch already partly excavated, it  
is not possible on account of rock  
and the distance to get a well down  
to water. Even now a well feasible  
I believe it pays in fish and many  
parts of the creek because westerns  
on account of the danger from drink-  
ing Simpane's well water. At the  
Annual Meeting of 1877 there were  
several cases, two of them quite dangerous  
of dysentery and fever in missionaries  
from the sub stations and in every case  
the patient was staying at the home  
of a Peoria missionary who did not  
boil his drinking water. There are  
several of our Peoria friends who are  
still confident that their well water  
is absolutely pure.

Dispensary Store - Dry dispensary  
has been started at the small cost of  
\$139.00 gold. This includes the land and

native buildings, refitting, painting and shelves, drawers, etc. I now <sup>have</sup> a very good temporary dispensary and conveniently located to Mr. Adnan Darang, where our morning prayers for everyone connected with us and our Sabbath services are held.

I have not yet bought a stove-burner - using a lamp and one which is too small. One is quite necessary for summer as well as winter. The bath water and stoves must winter. The \$50.00 silver basket for will be my own with the speculation expenses added.

### Appropriation to inclose new Station sites

One other word as to the appropriations we asked for at the last Annual Meeting. The item of \$250.00 silver for the inclosing of the new Station sites has been given careful consideration and the bids from masons which have lately come in show that we did not overestimate it. We have about 5530 feet of fence to build and the same distance of wall. We shall use Barb wire and are now negotiating with the Japanese Telegraph officials here to buy a lot

of old poles which are being replaced.  
There will be a fence posts and a hedge  
of a native thorn fence will be planted  
immediately along its inside to take its  
place when it gets down. The wall  
which <sup>is</sup> immediately behind the houses  
will be built of mud and stones. A  
predominance of the latter to make it last.  
The wall to measure the ground is primary  
which a fence would not be. It is  
a correction.

We are convinced that we have a  
splendid site. The best located for  
work and health combined of any of  
the Stations in Korea.

A much greater for winter that building has  
not yet begun. The Japanese contractor  
the Tsuru Hotel and used I am now rely-  
ing on a Whissey from Chongju to  
build the walls of brick while Mr. Adams  
and I shall probably employ native  
Korean carpenter for the wood work.

This is if he receives his appropriation  
this Spring. I sincerely trust the  
Board will be able to grant it.



As I wrote you, under date July 17<sup>th</sup> I think  
I advise that Mrs. Tidans live without  
the city as soon as possible after she comes  
back next Fall. After one break down  
from neurasthenia - one must be more  
careful than before and Mrs. Tidans  
is too valuable a missionary to run any  
risk with. - A single missionary can  
live in this walled city for easier (than  
a married woman with family cares  
which prevent her going out for fresh  
air, change of scene and recreation  
Also if required a young married woman  
can stand it better than one with large  
family. As soon as one house is  
erected it will improve matters for then  
the women will have somewhere \$10.00  
when they leave home.

5 We have except saving the few members  
Mr. Brown & Mr. Lidbothane's wife. Mr.  
Brown is a fine fellow in every way. He was  
of invaluable assistance to me this Fall  
more like our father who had sent back for  
putting phyllos & drawers in Dispensary  
left without warning Brown with the ad



of a coolie took his place & finished the job. We like (he, Sidelbotham, Mrs. P. especially will make a fine missionary I believe.

I am very busy with medical work as I have been since the start and am trying to make it the most plastic force that it should be. The work opened fully in November and at now have from 15 to 30 patients a day. Mornings I reserve for language study and make few surgical doings. I must see while from one o'clock to dark I am seeing patients. I must say I have no great ambition to treat a great number. All the oriental people have sick bodies, life pain at least, as well as sick souls and they all need medicine. From the first I have endeavored to send my soul with the medicine to open as physicians say. They are not as this and so full the suffering he go home and come to morrow.

His stays I reserve for operating and have more than I need. Misses. Baum and Sidelbotham are both undergoing an apprenticeship as anesthetizers and are at service while Mrs. Johnson has helped me once or twice lately with

women who were unwilling to see men.

Mrs. Johnson and I like our adopted country, home and its people better the longer we are here. Mrs. S. has this winter on rather since the New Year been receiving, entertaining and telling the gossip story to many women who have come to her "darning". She enjoys the work much. She has also made some visits to the people's home but this is limited of course by her family cares. We have been visiting the Sidebothams this Fall & winter in order to give them a chance at the language.

7. Mr. Adams can tell you more fully of the new but growing company of scholars. It is an encouraging work on the whole far more so than I had expected a year ago. To-day the French priest M. Robert the best French scholar in the country probably, called to return a visit of Mr. A. & I a few days since. He was most polite and expressed hope that the relations between ourselves and him, our people & his would always be most friendly. I have already

been successful in helping some of his  
flock at the Dispensary. I trust he is  
going for some an exception for French priests  
in Korea and that all our relations may  
continue as now. In the North especially  
our brethren are running parallel with the  
Romanists.

20  
I, Mrs. New Siddebottom have been invited  
by the wife of Mr. Smith & Co. to dinner for  
the dinner. I would like Mrs.  
Johnson to have some family dinner she says  
she doesn't want to leave me so I think  
I will probably go for 4 months of fourteen  
nights away where I can run down now  
and then to see my work. Mrs. Adams  
should not by any means come back  
before Fall as a hot weather is over.  
I have Fall & winter here have been fine, cool  
and breezy again as last. Ice and skating  
for a couple of weeks.

Your letter of Jan 11<sup>th</sup> for the Mission has  
just come. I am very glad indeed to  
learn that the Board has granted another  
\$400.00 since as requested before I began  
house. We shall be interested  
in the Great Mission of Conference and  
you all have our prayers for its success  
With kind regards to all  
W.O. Johnson M.D.

Dear Mr.  
Morr  
APR 23  
Dr. ELLI  
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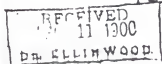
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Only ask's 446 you  
 Parker Korea Mar 12 1900  
 for medical work for  
 Dr. F. F. Ellinwood  
 156 5th Ave New York City X



My dear Dr. Ellinwood,  
 The letter to the Korean  
 Mission dated Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> 1900  
 came to hand at Parker  
 yesterday. You speak of  
 "an extra medical appro-  
 priation of 446 you  
 having been asked for Dr  
 Johnson". This is a  
 mistake evidently.  
 Perhaps it was meant  
 for some other doctor or  
 this field or another Dr.  
 Johnson or some other

field. I have asked for  
no extra appropriations  
at all <sup>for medical work</sup>. My regular  
requests for appropriations  
for medical assistants,  
expenses and a stove,  
went in on the regular  
appropriation sheets last  
October. You will  
notice that the total  
amount asked for was  
246 yen only.

I expect to make my  
Dispensary self supporting  
so far as the cost of  
drugs is concerned  
from the very first.  
After about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  months

I think I am already  
doing so tho it is not  
possible to tell before the  
year closes. The  
appropriation asked for,  
246 yen is of course  
for the coming year  
beginning May 1<sup>st</sup> 1900  
and ought to be found  
on the Mission Appropria-  
-tion sheets. It is  
possible that you have  
mistaken the figures  
250 yen which are under  
the column "To be raised  
on field". That is the  
sum I hope to raise by  
the sale of drugs and  
treatment here.

I am as busy as usual  
and seeing about twenty  
patients a day, to all of whom  
I am endeavoring to have  
Mr. Gosper preached under-  
standingly. Two men from  
Mr. Adams' winter Sunday  
class brought three neighbors  
back with them a few days  
ago. They said they had gotten  
the "chance" faster, of Bible  
Study and wanted some more.  
Each carried his pipe and  
cotton cash on his back enough  
to last three weeks. We are  
getting some good men. My  
dispensary patients are attending  
Sabbath services in goodly num-  
bers and the work has made  
much favorable comment already  
from all classes. With kind  
regards I remain

Yours Sincerely  
Wm. Johnson<sup>146</sup>



My Dear Dr. Ellinwood:

Since I left America, it was with the firm intention of writing often to Board; but - two years and a half have gone by all too rapidly without seeing the fulfillment of my intention. I had no idea that a missionary's life was so busy as it has proved. If there's no immediate duty to my family there is always the language or the women who call, to fill the days full and make me go to bed tired at night.

But I do enjoy my life here, and wish for no happiness, no more satisfying one than this. My direct missionary work is of course small, for my house will not yet run by itself, nor will my baby take care of himself; it is therefore fortunate that the women come to me - and what time I give to them is indirect evangelistic work. They come, almost without exception, I suppose, merely out of curiosity. I entertain them in a Korean room just outside our yard; and after getting a little acquainted with the general facts of where they live and how many boys they have, and having answered their questions as to my age and the number of boys I possess, I introduce the subject of the purpose of our coming to Korea. At times, they seem to be very much interested and some of them come several times; but as yet there are only a few who count themselves believers and they are not the strangers, but the wives of Christians. I often sell them books and I am sure there is some good accomplished, though the results are not yet apparent.

The brightest Christian among the women is the wife of our cook who is also a Christian. This woman helps me with the care of the house and the baby, and with the sewing, and is an honest, faithful worker trying earnestly, I believe, to live up to her light. One day her husband came into the sitting room and began to scold her in a loud angry voice in my presence. I took occasion to reprove him for it and Dr. Johnson also gave him a little talk upon the subject. The man said that he just didn't know how to get along with that wife of his, she wouldn't mind him at all and yet as a Christian he couldn't beat her as another would do. Dr. Johnson suggested to him that the way he and his wife get along happily together was by mutually giving in to the other. The cook went away, and evidently acted on the advice,, for he remarked to the Doctor a few days later that he and his wife were trying the plan, and he found that he got along now very well with her. As for the woman, she seems to be growing constantly in the Christian life. I had some callers one day whom I could not understand and I called in the amah to help me. They were two women who had come especially to find out about the doctrine, they said. Before I knew it amah was saying "Let us pray", and then she repeated a .....prayer which is in one of the tracts for believers. She has not yet asked to be admitted as a catechumen and I doubt whether she.....that women are admitted but we are waiting for her to suggest it, and I think it will not be long before she will realize that before God women are not the outcasts, but sharers with men of the glorious "sonship".

2. We are now in fairly good health as a station, Mr. Sidebotham being now convalescent after a light attack of varioloid [?] which has kept him in quarantine for some time. We shall be glad when we can meet him again, and also when we can go over to his house and enjoy the new piano which came just a short time before he was taken ill.

3. The coming of that piano to Taiku was a great event. Thirty coolies in all, carried it in from the river, ten miles distant where it had come from Fusan. A crowd of the curious followed it and halted at our gate. So did the piano. It was too large to go through until its box had been taken off. Then it passed through the gate in triumph only to stop once more at the door of Mr. Sidebotham's house which was too narrow to admit it. A little paring of the door casing, however, made that all right, and the piano was in its place to delight the hearts of all the station for years to come. It was so kind of the people in New York to give impetus to the idea of getting one for Mrs. Sidebotham. She is a skillful player and is made very happy by



the possession of the dearest material thing she could desire.

4. Our house site is beautiful. We have built a stone wall to protect a part of it from molestation and curiosity and a bamboo-wire fence extends along the front farthest from the house. We have planted seventy-two fruit trees and fields of potatoes and other late vegetables and more we are waiting, not quite sure whether the house is to go up or not. When the above-mentioned preparations were well along, Mr. Adams received a letter from the .....official in Taiku who is acting on the ground plan since that notable was arrested and taken to Seoul on the charge of stealing government money. The letter states that in building in the interior we were going beyond our treaty rights which expressly state that no foreigner may hold .....property in the interior. The letter states that in addition to that, there were two..... why we should not build on that particular site. 1<sup>st</sup> it was government land, and 2<sup>nd</sup> it was prejudicial to the good interests of the city as it cut off the benign influences otherwise floating down from the hill to the city below.

Mr. Adams went to see the man and found him apparently affable enough, but anxious to do his duty, and probably acting at the instigation of the So family, the grave of whose progenitor lies under the hill. Mr. Adams accomplished nothing except the admission on the part of the official that the last two reasons were of practically little importance and that it was the matter of the treaty that had obliged him to make us the communication.

We have placed the property in the hands of a Korean, and Mr. Adams has gone to Seoul to see our consul and get workmen if possible. The official for his part has merely forwarded a letter to Seoul, stating the case and in the meantime we are asked to stop proceedings. We are not seriously disturbed by all this, for it is apparently a purely local affair, and one which has confronted the interior missionaries on several occasions before, always however, ending in the missionaries staying in the city and continuing this work.

We have had great difficulty all along in getting material for building and workmen to superintend. At last we have a part of our wood cut and stored, ready for the rains to come, to float it down the river to us. (We can't go out and buy lumber - we have to cut our own forests.)

In due time I expect to see a really comfortable house arisen. In the meantime we can manage to get along by going to the monastery in the hills this summer when the weather gets too hot in the city.

We are enjoying our new missionaries very much, and feel we have much to be thankful for in having so congenial a working force.

Of course you hear of the work among the men through Mr. Adams, so I have not touched on that. With best remembrances to you all and especially to you with whom we keep in closest touch

Yours sincerely,

Edith Parker Johnson

#### 5. Medical Work:

P.S. Dr. Johnson says I forgot to speak of the medical work. The most encouraging thing about it is that fact that the surgical patients come to the Sunday services, though they know their physical ailments will

not be attended to on that day. Two or three have professed to believe though none have as yet been received as catechumens.

Mr. Moffett has just sent down from Pyeng Yang one of their Christians to act as the Doctor's helper in the dispensary, teaching the doctrine to the crowds who wait their turn. It is remarkable how they begin to come early in the morning, though it is well known that the doctor will see only his surgical cases then. They wait until afternoon and then sometimes have to go away because there have been so many ahead of them that there's no time left in the day. I might add that there is also no strength left in the doctor by the end of the day. He uses his strength wisely however, and I think it is easier for him than it was, by far, to see a larger number than it was to see a few at first.

My callers among the women are very often patients of the doctor's. One old lady insisted on bowing low on her knees before me as the doctor's wife because her son had been so much benefitted by Dr. Johnson's medicines.

They are constantly giving presents of eggs and chickens and chestnuts and the Doctor's fame seems to have spread for miles around in these few months.

E.P.J.

October 27, 1900

Reel #179, Vol. 9, #92

Received  
 Oct 27, 1900  
 My dear Dr. Ellsworth  
 As you may know  
 Messrs. Adams & Brown and  
 Mrs. Johnson with her baby  
 boy went to a meeting  
 at Piquette Valley together  
 leaving here Sept 3rd. On  
 account of my house  
 building I could not go but  
 invited upon pending my  
 wife who was badly run  
 down after a trying sum-  
 mer here in the hot city  
 and the illness of her  
 little girl Mary Parker.  
 Perhaps her being the

the only woman in the  
station a good part of  
the time since Mrs Adams  
went home in the spring  
of 1899 also had some-  
thing to do with her  
condition but at any rate  
she needed change badly  
and I am glad to say  
that she came back on  
the 12<sup>th</sup> of Oct quite another  
woman physically and  
mentally.

I might say right here  
Doctor Ellinwood that I  
believe some if not many  
breakdowns might be  
averted if missionaries

would take their families  
and themselves away to  
a complete change of  
scene and if possible to  
where another language  
is spoken for a month  
or so every year. It  
is the complete change  
in a man's surroundings  
that refreshes him espe-  
cially if he live in the  
interior and see few  
foreigners. Of course we  
Stocean missionaries all  
of us live in bliss and  
happiness when compared  
to our poor brethren in  
China some of them months

distant  
in the interior yet even  
we sometimes suffer for  
want of regular vacations  
and the women often  
break down. I notice  
the effect a week's trip,  
with three or four days  
stay at Fusan and back  
to Taikoo has upon the  
Taikoo missionary. He  
may go solely upon bus-  
-iness and be very hurried  
while there but he  
comes back from his  
change of environment  
a different man. Feels  
twice as well as before and  
works twice as well. I  
have been down on

2  
• short trips like that  
myself and noted the  
effect upon myself.  
I do not believe so far  
as the Korean missionaries  
are concerned at least  
that there is any danger  
of missionaries taking  
too many or too long  
vacations or furlongs  
home. This as a general  
rule. There are of course  
exceptions. One's work  
is continually needing him  
he is missed at once and  
his department suffers  
more or less. He knows  
this and that it will be  
harder to get things running



pinooth again. If he has  
the slightest love for or  
pride in his work every-  
thing conspires to make  
him neglect or shorten  
his vacations. The danger  
as I see it is all that  
way. Mrs. Johnson has  
given very full reports  
of the Annual Meeting  
among other things. Dr.  
and Mrs. Arison, Mr. &  
Mrs. Baird were like  
new people I hardly  
recognized them. Indeed  
I did not know Mrs.  
Arison at all until some  
one told me who she was.  
This after the Arisons

entertained Mrs. J and I  
at Seaside Annual Meeting  
in Oct. '98 for few days.

As I myself remember  
them they looked and  
acted, both of them as people  
worn out and nearly  
broken down and this  
impression I have received  
more or less strongly several  
times upon meeting mis-  
sionaries who had been  
out six to eight years with-  
out much vacation or  
furlough. Now is it  
best for a man in the  
end to get into this worn  
out condition. He will  
probably be straightened



out and apparently the  
same after a fortnight  
my work done while  
these run down doesn't  
count the same as when  
strong and the number  
of his years of usefulness  
may be shortened.

Therefore the opinion of  
a rather young doctor,  
not many years on the  
field is that the Board  
ought to arrange for  
regular vacations say  
yearly, of at least a  
month, ought to insist  
upon them and that they  
be taken as far as possible  
from the field of work.

• Also so far as Korea is concerned I think the first furlough home ought to be at the end of six years instead of eight. The first period upon the field is incomparably harder physically and mentally than the latter term. The getting acclimated and accustomed to run the mind as well as the body in an entirely different groove from the one you run in at home. The separation from

Parents and friends  
rapidly growing old and  
likely to pass away.

The establishment and  
maintenance of the new  
family or home, all  
these are much harder  
and more trying during  
the first years upon the  
field than later.

Consequently this term  
should be the shortest.  
Six years is long enough.  
I have felt ever since  
getting here and giving  
the question any considera-  
tion. And I feel it  
is such an important

question that you will  
be glad to know what all  
the physicians think.  
even tho they be not ret-  
-rains but young and  
with lots to learn.

I recognize that vacations  
and furlongs are very  
expensive and hurt the  
work at the time but  
I believe they pay in the  
long run more than the  
Board realizes.

3 I have been very busy  
overseeing the work on  
the new house. It has  
been very plain and I  
am sorry to report

that we will not be able  
to get in until next  
Spring. This is due to  
the fire burners breaking  
his contract and selling  
some of our tile to another  
party as well as his failure  
to burn them quickly as  
stipulated. He is the  
second man who has  
failed to deliver the tiles  
as per contract altho in  
this case we advanced  
him money for everything  
in order to get them  
quickly. This money  
we shall recover without

loss but it means  
much inconvenience  
and loss of time. More  
than one at home can  
understand. We are  
preparing now to move  
up on the new site into  
our outbuildings, carpenter  
shop, wood shed etc.  
They are quite large  
and fire proof so that  
altho cramped we shall  
manage very well until  
spring. The beautiful  
views, fresh air and  
country around will be

more than compensation  
for uncomfortable quarters.

Mr. Adams will also  
get into his house in  
the spring. We have  
heard nothing more from  
the officials about our  
building there and feel  
quite assured that for  
the present at least  
we shall not be dis-  
turbed. The fact of  
our being permitted to  
build thus far and to  
inhabit the buildings  
gives us a strong hold  
upon the property.

4 I am sorry to have to  
report a very unpleasant  
encounter which Mrs.  
Johnson and Mr. Ridibotham  
had while on the road  
from Fusan to Taikoo.  
Mr. Adams having gone  
to Japan to meet his wife  
and Mr. Brown and  
Miss House still in the  
north itinerating with  
members of the Pyung  
Yang Station. When  
about half way from  
Fusan here, Mrs. Johnson  
who was in advance  
in her chair was stop-  
ped by a band of



Twenty robbers, Mr. &  
sidebother being simul-  
taneously dragged from  
his horse. They seized  
Mrs Johnson's wedding  
ring, scarf and collar  
buttons and pulled her  
from the chair demand-  
ing money. When she  
replied she had none  
they struck her repeated-  
ly upon the head and  
shoulders with the back  
of their swords, then  
loose open her dress in  
search for it but desist-  
ed when she struck  
one of them in the face.



The chain coolies and  
 servant offered no resis-  
 tance and Mr. Piddabotham  
 was completely overpowered  
 by several of the ruffians  
 who took his watch  
 money and rifled even  
 with their swords all  
 the rations and baggage.  
 Having eaten from the  
 lunch box they scattered  
 the remainder with clothing  
 travelling outfit, etc., over  
 the road taking whatever  
 struck their fancy and  
 destroying much in  
 mere wantonness. During

the plundering of the baggage Mrs. Johnson sat by the roadside with the baby in her arms where they had placed her the robbers bringing one article after another to her and asking whether or not it was valuable.

After their departure the journey was resumed. But the one remaining night to be spent in a Korean inn was not very restful as you may imagine. However they arrived here the next afternoon without

further incident. Mr. Pidebotham and I called upon the Governor that evening and he promised to do all in his power to apprehend and punish the culprits.

This province has been overrun this Fall with bands of highwaymen who have attacked and robbed many Koreans as well as seized and secured ransoms from wealthy men of rank at their homes. It is an index of the rottenness

and weakness of the  
Government which permits  
viable to put them down.  
Tax collectors and squabblers  
with government authority  
are also appearing here  
and there after an absence  
of several years since  
the Japanese & Chinese  
war when they were  
abolished by the Japs.  
However the officials  
here seem quite stirred  
up and soldiers are  
patrolling the roads and  
prowling the country.

Mr. Johnson took  
considerable clothing

6

as well as a little jewelry  
and for a girl who had  
never known what fear  
was, received quite a  
nervous shock. Not  
so much at the time  
she says but that night  
in the inn when Mr.  
Piddetham thought he  
overheard conversation  
about killing her.  
However within a few  
days she was all right  
and beyond a few bruises  
quite as well as ever.  
Mr. and Mrs. Adams  
came up eight days ago

without having any  
alarms. Mr. A taking  
the precaution (he well  
warned, with an armed  
servant - also. Our  
Christian Brethren here  
were deeply stirred over  
the affair; as one of  
them said "I am ashamed  
to look you in the  
face, after such a thing  
has been done by my  
countrymen." We  
all feel that we have  
great cause to thank  
the Lord for his care. These  
robbers frequently kill  
lest the Travellers should

• identify them afterwards.  
5 Mr. Ridebotham expects  
to leave us soon for  
Fusan whither he  
has been transferred. He  
is now packing and  
sending his household  
furniture. Mr. Brown  
will join is within  
a few weeks and Miss  
Nourse probably within  
a couple of months. I  
am glad to learn of  
the latter's coming but  
regret much that the  
Mission could not give  
Saikes a man and wife

in place of Mr. and Mrs.  
Pideborham. I am  
convinced that it is  
better for the women's  
health if there are several  
of them in one station.  
I am hoping to open  
up my Dispensary now,  
which during the hot  
summer and my build-  
ing operations I was  
compelled to close in part  
altho I still have all  
the patients I want.

With kind regards

I remain very sincerely

Wm. Bridge Johnson